Reduction in operational cost of FCI

†2938. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that operational expenditure has witnessed a downward trend after the Food Corporation of India has put into practice the recommendations of the multinational institution Mckinsey; and

(b) if so, the operational expenditure in the year 2005-06 and to what extent this expenditure was less than the operational expenditure of 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The operational expenditure of the Food Corporation of India has come down to Rs.12,811 crore (Revised Estimates) during 2005-06 in comparison to Rs.15,300 crore (Provisional) during 2004-05. The reduction in operational expenditure is due to a number of factors which, *inter alia,* include implementation of the recommendations of M/s McKinsey & Co.

Foodgrains allotment to Uttar Pradesh

2939. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how often the prices of PDS rice and wheat were raised during the last two years and the details thereof;

(b) the foodgrains allotted to Uttar Pradesh for distributing to the BPL cardholders and the requirement prescribed by Government for each cardholder per month; and

(c) whether any insufficiency of foodgrains allotment to the BPL families in Uttar Pradesh has been brought to the notice of Government and the steps taken to augment the supplies?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There has been no increase in Central Issue Prices of PDS rice and wheat during the last two years.

(b) 3,73,665 tonnes of foodgrains are allocated to the State of Uttar Pradesh for 106.79 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL), [including 40.945 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), households] per month. Foodgrains are allocated @ 35 kgs per household per month for AAY, BPL and APL population of the States.

(c) No insufficiency of foodgrains allotment to the BPL families (including AAY households) in Uttar Pradesh has been brought to the notice of this Department.

Procurement Centres in A.P.

2940. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of procurement centres opened, so far, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have given any relaxation for the procurement of foodgrains from the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target set for procurement by Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Details of the number of procurement centres opened, by Government agencies State-wise, including in Andhra Pradesh in KMS 2005-06 and RMS 2006-07 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The relaxations for procurement of foodgrains during KMS 2005-06 and RMS 2006-07 are at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open ended no targets are set. However based on the estimates given by the State Food Secretaries before the onset of the Marketing Seasons the estimated procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) in KMS 2005-06 was 230 lakh tonnes while the estimate of wheat procurement in RMS 2006-07 was 162 lakh tonnes.